



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

510 S. Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975. (213) 738-2981. <http://openspacedistrict.lacounty.info>

March 05, 2013

The Honorable Board of Directors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

**ADOPTED**

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1-P

March 5, 2013

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIRST SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT  
TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES FOR A GRANT TO AMIGOS DE LOS RIOS FOR THE  
WELLNESS CENTER PARK/FITNESS ZONE PROJECT  
(FIRST DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$1,900,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District specified pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of Los Angeles for a grant to Amigos De Los Rios to fund the development of a wellness-themed park/fitness zone at the Los Angeles County-University of Southern California Medical Center in Los Angeles.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:**

1. Acting as a responsible agency for the Wellness Center Park/Fitness Zone Project, consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared and adopted by the County of Los Angeles as lead agency, together with any comments received during the public review process; certify that the Board of the Regional Park and Open Space District has independently considered and reached its own conclusions regarding the environmental effects of the proposed Wellness Center Park/Fitness Zone Project and shown in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; adopt the "Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources" and "Nesting Birds" measures contained in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the project, finding that the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is adequately designed to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures during project implementation.
2. Approve the Wellness Center Park/Fitness Zone Project and allocate \$1,900,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe

Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the City of Los Angeles for a grant to Amigos De Los Rios for the Wellness Center Park/Fitness Zone Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the amount of \$1,900,000, to Amigos De Los Rios for the Wellness Center Park/Fitness Zone Project after the City of Los Angeles assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Amigos De Los Rios, if applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approval of the recommended actions will consider the previously adopted Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Wellness Center Park/Fitness Zone Project (Project) and allocate \$1,900,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the First Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the City of Los Angeles (City) which is a potential recipient of Cities Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the funds for the Project to Amigos De Los Rios (Amigos), a qualified nonprofit organization, to carry out the Project.

The proposed Project will repurpose approximately two acres of space adjacent to Los Angeles County-University of California Medical Center (General Hospital) Building in Los Angeles. The Project will consist of improvements on a  $\frac{3}{4}$  acre lower courtyard at State Street at the former main hospital entrance; a  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre on the front terrace at the top of the main entrance stairway; and approximately 1 acre comprised of the formal courtyards at the northwest and southwest corners of the main entrance building, the small courtyard in the southeast corner of the General Hospital main entrance building and a linear path/fire lane south of the General Hospital Building.

Project scope consists of landscaping; replacement of certain trees; installation of benches, tables, exercise equipment, shade structures and lighting; Americans with Disability Act improvements to existing restrooms and access paths; installation of playground equipment and refurbishment of tot lot; installation of a water feature; installation of decomposed granite and rubber surfacing; installation of large movable planter boxes for healthy eating demonstrations; and interpretive signage.

The overall Project cost is estimated at \$3,700,000. The \$1,900,000 of Cities Excess Funds will be supplemented by \$1,800,000 in Proposition 84 Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant funding.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by providing a wellness-themed recreational opportunity in the First Supervisorial District.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$1,900,000, is budgeted in the First Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District

(District) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. Amigos has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the First Supervisorial District for Cities projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), in his capacity as Director of the District, will be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

All projects funded by the District are required to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as a condition of the grant. The lead agency for the Project is the County of Los Angeles (County). The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the Project.

The County prepared an initial study, consulted with responsible agencies and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) on November 7, 2012, finding that with the inclusion of mitigation measures for the proposed project there was no substantial evidence that the Project would have a significant effect on the environment. Your Board, as governing Board for the County of Los Angeles, further found that the MND reflected the independent judgment of the County; approved the MND; and found that the Project will have no adverse effect on fish and wildlife resources. As part of the scope of the MND, the County adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (Program). This Program will be implemented and monitored by LAC+USC Medical Center Foundations Inc. as directed under the lease agreement with the County.

With respect to your Board's approval of the Project described herein, the District acts as a responsible agency for the purposes of CEQA, and therefore, we recommend that your Board independently consider and adopt the MND and the "Historic, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources" and "Nesting Birds" measures contained in the Program.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that Amigos may proceed with the development of a wellness-themed park/fitness zone in the First Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

**CONCLUSION**

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JIB

IV:lb

c: Chief Executive Office  
County Counsel  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors